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STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

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INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report contains information on progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/22 A of 2 December 1994 and of the recommendations of the mid-term review of the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, carried out by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994. The report is submitted biennially to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, as requested by the Assembly in resolution 44/236 of 22 December 1989 (annex, para. 10).

The present report complements the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, as it also incorporates the report on the implementation of disaster prevention and preparedness related to General Assembly resolutions 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and 49/139 A of 20 December 1994.

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CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 8	4
II.	PROGRESS MADE IN PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION	9 - 49	5
	A. Activities at the regional, subregional and country levels	11 - 31	6
	1. Africa	11 - 14	6
	2. Asia and the Pacific	15 - 19	6
	3. Latin America and the Caribbean	20 - 24	7
	4. Eastern and central European States	25 - 26	8
	5. Western European and other States	27 - 31	9
	B. United Nations system	32 - 40	10
	C. Scientific and technical organizations	41 - 44	12
	D. Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations	45	12
	E. Department of Humanitarian Affairs	46 - 49	13
III.	FRAMEWORK OF ACTION FOR THE DECADE	50 - 87	14
	A. Special High-Level Council	51 - 52	14
	B. Scientific and Technical Committee	53 - 55	14
	C. Contact Group of Permanent Missions	56 - 57	15
	D. National committees and country focal points	58 - 60	15
	E. Working Group of the United Nations Steering Committee for the Decade	61 - 63	16
	F. Secretariat of the Decade	64 - 87	16
	1. Management and coordination	64 - 67	16
	2. Information management and early-warning systems	68 - 72	17
	3. Promotional activities	73 - 77	18

CONTENTS (continued)

	Paragraphs	Page
4. Demonstration projects	78 - 81	19
5. Trust Fund for the Decade	82 - 87	19
IV. PROGRAMME FOR THE PERIOD 1995-2000	88 - 107	21
A. Policy orientation	89 - 92	21
B. Objective	93	22
C. Targets	94	22
D. Strategy	95	22
E. Action plan	96 - 106	23
1. Development of national capacities	97	23
2. Application of knowledge and technology	98 - 99	23
3. Information management, public information and promotion	100 - 101	24
4. International collaboration	102 - 106	24
F. Time-frame	107	25
V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	108	27

I. INTRODUCTION

1. As countries formulate their development plans and commit resources to their priorities, thought is too seldom given to the possible loss and destruction that could be caused by natural disasters until disaster strikes. The Bangladesh "killer" cyclone in 1990, the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in 1991, the Chinese river floods in 1991 and 1995, the Flores Island tsunami in 1992, the drought in southern Africa in 1993-1994, the United States floods in 1993, the earthquake in Northridge, California, in 1994, the mudslides in Colombia in 1994, the earthquake in Maharashtra, India, in 1994, the floods in western Europe in 1995, and most recently, the earthquake in Kobe, Japan, are reminders of the devastation caused by natural disasters. These events occurred during the brief five-year period since the beginning of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and each was the worst of its kind in terms of destruction caused. The severity of such disasters is likely to increase even further if no remedial action is taken.

2. No country, whatever its economic standing or social achievement, is immune to the effects of natural disasters. Recent events can, and should, concentrate the attention of Governments and enhance the willingness of people towards efforts to reduce potential risks. Modern technology and scientific knowledge can be utilized to indicate where hazards are greatest and identify the means to avert their worst effects. Cooperation, both internationally and within countries, is needed to make the most out of the lessons learned. Capacities must be built and strengthened in order to increase the ability to act. The challenge is motivation - at all levels, and by all concerned. Without it, little can be done to keep loss of life and property in check. It must be understood that natural disasters not only cause damage, they also retard social and economic development through their secondary effects.

3. The International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction is entering critical years. It is important to emphasize directions necessary for its success. Earlier promotional efforts and activities, particularly in the area of increasing awareness of disaster reduction and its relationship to sustainable development, have paved the way for a widespread practical application of disaster-reduction policies and measures.

4. Since the proclamation of the Decade by the General Assembly, in resolution 44/236 of 22 December 1989, the International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction has generated a variety of activities. Building on those efforts, the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, held in Yokohama, Japan, from 23 to 27 May 1994, succeeded in providing renewed emphasis and focus to the objectives of the Decade. In addition to contributing to the mid-term review of the Decade by the Economic and Social Council during its substantive session of 1994, the Conference revitalized the international community's dedication to disaster reduction.

5. The primary outcome of the Conference, the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation, containing the Principles, the Strategy and the Plan of Action, 1/ supplemented by the Yokohama Message 2/ and the recommendations and reports of the Main

Committee and Technical Committees of the Conference, 3/ constitute the blueprint for the second half of the Decade and the future of disaster reduction.

6. These forward-looking outputs of the Conference and the mid-term review of the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade were considered by the General Assembly during its forty-ninth session and endorsed by the Assembly in resolution 49/22 A of 2 December 1994. In that resolution, the Assembly noted, inter alia, that natural disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness measures can reduce the need for disaster response, which, in comparison, is far more expensive. The General Assembly, consequently, called for continued financial and technical support for activities of the Decade, including those of its secretariat.

7. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its fiftieth session on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution and of the recommendations of the mid-term review. In order to secure the timely implementation of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action, the Secretary-General was also invited to make proposals "on all possible ways and means to ensure the functional security and continuity of disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness".

8. The General Assembly, in resolution 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, requested the Secretary-General to report, within the framework of the Decade, to the Assembly at its fiftieth session on early-warning capacities within the United Nations system. The Assembly also solicited proposals on how early-warning systems might be improved and better coordinated in order to provide for an adequate response to natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment.

II. PROGRESS MADE IN PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

9. At the mid-point of the Decade, the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction provided the impetus and exerted a strong influence on programme activity for the second half of the Decade. Delegations from 155 countries attended the Conference. Their representatives exchanged information, ideas and experiences with participants from the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations. They interacted with political, scientific and technical specialists from many programme sectors. The Conference thus strengthened the relationships among all concerned partners in the Decade and provided the basis for future activity.

10. With renewed emphasis being given to practical applications at the national and local levels, the importance of regional and subregional organizations is growing. Detailed information on the activities undertaken within the United Nations system by technical and scientific bodies and by other collaborating organizations is provided in information reports prepared by the secretariat of the Decade. The secretariat is also in the process of collecting information on country-level activities, with a view to compiling a report.

A. Activities at the regional, subregional and country levels

1. Africa

11. Regional activities related to disaster reduction and the Decade are coordinated with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). The World Health Organization (WHO) Emergency Preparedness and Relief Unit in Addis Ababa is also supporting those efforts. The Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Desert Locust Control Organization (DLCO), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) are among the subregional organizations whose members are addressing common disaster-reduction problems.

12. Africa demonstrates how disaster reduction can be pursued systematically and collaboratively at the regional level, while respecting the particular needs of individual countries. At the Yokohama Conference, the African countries presented a common platform for progress in disaster reduction that carefully related tenets of disaster reduction to the prevailing hazard and social conditions of the continent.

13. There has been a strong impetus to incorporate disaster-reduction planning in development programmes and to support individual country efforts by a range of regional and subregional groupings in various sectors. Many of them reach to local community levels of activity. The degree of motivation in Africa was clearly demonstrated when the OAU Council of Ministers formally adopted the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action in July 1994 as a common basis to guide African progress towards disaster reduction.

14. In pursuit of that objective, three subregional workshops, covering the entire continent, took place in Botswana, Burkina Faso and Kenya between November 1994 and June 1995. They were organized by the Disaster Reduction Division of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA), in coordination with regional and subregional organizations and institutions. The workshops enabled government officials to assess country needs and to proceed to develop capacities for disaster reduction at national and local levels. These workshops serve as examples of the importance of regional collaboration to achieve national action. A number of country proposals have been prepared since the workshops were held. Six more country workshops have been conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/DHA Disaster Management Training Programme, from which it is expected new projects will be developed.

2. Asia and the Pacific

15. In Asia, regional activities related to disaster reduction and the Decade reflect the physical and cultural diversity of the continent. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) cooperates with a number of countries in the region, particularly in disaster awareness and preparedness associated with water resources and related hazards. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), through its Office of the

Environment, is active in promoting programme relationships between disaster reduction and environmental concerns. The Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) in Bangkok continues to be a major facility for disaster-management training throughout the region. It also provides technical assistance to countries for developing low-cost indigenous capabilities. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) plays an important role by incorporating disaster-reduction measures in its programmes throughout the region.

16. The exposure and the extent of experience of some of the larger countries of the region have enabled them to become recognized sources for disaster-reduction expertise. As such, they have developed into catalysts for interregional cooperation.

17. In addition to the very generous support it provided in serving as host for the World Conference in Yokohama, Japan has demonstrated leadership in the region by supporting the objectives of the Decade through numerous programmes. For example, a recent initiative of the Decade secretariat, with Japanese support, is the RADIUS workshop, "Risk Assessment and Diagnosis of Urban Areas against Seismic Disasters", to be held in Jakarta in June 1995. It will focus on key earthquake disaster reduction issues for urban areas in developing countries, and will chart a plan of action.

18. A common strategy for disaster reduction that served as the basis for the development of disaster-reduction projects and activities in the region was presented to the Yokohama Conference by 15 Pacific island countries. In September 1994, the Third Regional Disaster Reduction Meeting was held in Suva, Fiji, to further regional coordination on policy issues, training needs and information requirements. At that meeting, consensus was reached on the establishment of a Disaster Management Unit within the Pacific Forum Secretariat for coordination of disaster-reduction programmes. The South Pacific Programme Office of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs was requested to provide necessary liaison and technical support for effective regional coordination.

19. The South Pacific Programme Office is also the implementing agency for the jointly funded UNDP/DHA South Pacific Disaster Reduction Project, one of the major regional activities that supports the common Pacific disaster-reduction strategy. This project provides coordination of multiple donor inputs for training at the country level, and assists in the establishment of a sustainable mechanism for regional cooperation in disaster reduction. The Australian Committee for the Decade, in addition to its own active domestic programme, has been a major provider of technical and financial support for these formative activities in the Pacific.

3. Latin America and the Caribbean

20. Various Latin American countries have learned from previous disasters by establishing nationwide programmes in disaster awareness and preparedness, and by the development of related management capabilities. Extensive and frequent contacts have been established between numerous organizations. Geographical affinities and shared concerns about specific types of hazards have also enabled regional organizations to collaborate in support of individual national

programmes. This is being done through shared training, the exchange of practical knowledge or experience, and collaborative efforts to develop information materials. A strong and cohesive regional identity has contributed to the establishment of effective regionwide disaster-reduction programmes for the mutual benefit of member countries.

21. The following organizations have been particularly active in the field of disaster reduction in Latin America by emphasizing the importance of the Decade: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Organization of American States (OAS); Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC); and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) has been a major contributor to regional motivation and services for disaster reduction in the Caribbean.

22. The International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction has facilitated regional relationships, responding to the interests of individual disaster-prone countries. Activities have been identified, and intraregional resources have been engaged with the assistance of a Regional Programme Office in Costa Rica. It maintains steady contacts throughout the region, and works closely with the Pan American Health Organization and other regional organizations and national offices. The Office is particularly active in the encouragement of training and other forms of formal education, and has thus contributed to the implementation of the objectives of the Decade at the community level.

23. Similarly, the Regional Programme Office of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, in Quito, Ecuador, also promotes disaster-reduction initiatives at the national and regional levels. The Programme Officer of this Regional Programme Office provides backstopping and technical support to ongoing national disaster-mitigation activities in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, which are being assisted by the Disaster Reduction Division of the Department.

24. An important regional event relating to the Decade was the International Conference on Natural Disasters, organized by the Government of Peru, at Huarez, Peru, in May 1995. Leading disaster-reduction professionals conducted an assessment of regional activities already completed and identified future requirements.

4. Eastern and central European States

25. In the Russian Federation and in countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), several important initiatives in disaster reduction are being implemented following the World Conference, including the definition of projects for strengthening disaster-management capacities, mitigation and planning. These projects will be implemented jointly by UNDP and the Disaster Reduction Division of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs within the framework of their technical cooperation activities. Changes in the economic environment have spurred a strong interest in the role that insurance can play in reducing disaster risk. Training seminars are currently being organized by government officials, in cooperation with the Disaster Reduction Division,

within the framework of the Decade, to be followed by an international conference later in 1995.

26. Aware of the threats posed by technological and natural disasters and of the importance of developing further capacities in the region to deal with these threats, the secretariat of the Decade is participating regularly in meetings of the Inter-State Council of the Commonwealth of Independent States for Disaster Relief and Coordination, which was formed at the time of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction. Several initiatives are under way in order to develop disaster-training institutions, including those in seismic resistant construction and disaster medicine.

5. Western European and other States

27. Recent major disasters such as the floods in western Europe, the Kobe earthquake in Japan, wildfire in Australia, and floods and the Northridge earthquake in the United States highlight the importance of strong national commitment to disaster-reduction policies and practices. The industrialized countries are paying significantly greater attention to detailed damage analysis and post-disaster evaluation, given the high capital costs of reconstruction. In many of these countries, disasters have vividly demonstrated the influence of human activities and behaviour patterns on disaster vulnerability. A combination of natural, human and technological factors increases the potential for damage.

28. The national committees for the Decade and related technical agencies of the industrialized countries have remained active in the respective countries and have pursued a variety of collaborative relationships with neighbouring countries, and supported disaster-reduction initiatives in developing countries.

29. An example is provided by the collective efforts of the European Union in the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Programme of the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO). Under the first phase of the programme, 15 projects are currently being implemented at the national and regional levels in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In addition, ECHO has supported and organized several international workshops addressing issues related to the Decade. Assistance has been extended to the secretariat of the Decade by European institutions and experts to strengthen management and coordination capacities. A second example is provided by the Council of Europe. Within the framework of the Major Hazards Agreement, the Council has furthered collaboration with the secretariat of the Decade and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the development of scientific networks for disaster reduction.

30. Canada, the United States and Mexico are also building up collaborative relationships in disaster reduction. The national committees for the Decade of these three countries held a workshop early in 1995 to identify possibilities for joint activities.

31. Following an initiative by Canada, the collaborating partners are responding to a recent proposal of the Group of Seven relating to information and communication technologies for early-warning and disaster-reduction

purposes. The secretariat of the Decade is working with partners in those countries to ensure that the opportunity provided by the initiative to advance cooperation in the important sector of technology and applied science is realized.

B. United Nations system

32. A number of agencies and organizations of the United Nations system have reported to the secretariat of the Decade on their activities since the World Conference. This information is provided in a separate information report prepared by the secretariat and covers the United Nations (including the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the Department of Public Information, ECA, the Economic Commission for Europe, ECLAC, ESCAP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNDP, the United Nations Volunteers, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNESCO, WHO, the International Telecommunication Union, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

33. The agencies and organizations of the United Nations system are increasingly aware of the importance of including disaster reduction in their respective development and environmental protection programmes. The interest and foresight of a number of these agencies was demonstrated by their roles in organizing technical sessions at the World Conference, and in circulating the results widely. The following examples demonstrate how recent policy efforts among some United Nations bodies have been influential in furthering disaster-reduction interest and programming. This development has been facilitated by the expressed support for disaster-reduction concerns voiced in the respective governing bodies.

34. Three WHO Regional Committees included emergency preparedness on their agendas during 1994. The Pan American Health Organization has intensified its long-standing programme commitment to disaster preparedness and prevention in the Latin American region. In 1995, both the WHO Executive Board and the World Health Assembly adopted resolutions that, inter alia, dealt with emergency preparedness and disaster reduction.

35. The World Meteorological Organization reaffirmed the Organization's strong support for the Decade during the 1994 WMO Executive Council, which was held immediately after the Yokohama Conference. Progress was reported in the implementation of the WMO Plan of Action for the Decade, involving both the Organization's regular programmes and additional special projects. In a scheduled review, the Twelfth WMO Congress, held from 30 May to 21 June 1995, would consider the WMO Plan of Action for the Decade, originally adopted during the Eleventh Congress, in 1991, taking into account the developments and needs of the past four years.

36. Strong interest and support for the Decade has also been demonstrated by UNESCO, the Executive Board of which has endorsed the Yokohama Strategy and the Plan of Action. The Organization has accelerated and further expanded the implementation of an existing programme related to studying the mitigation possibilities of different natural hazards. There is also great appreciation within UNESCO of the importance of integrating natural hazard concerns into interdisciplinary projects related to the environment, urban issues and small island coastal zone development.

37. Since the inception of the Decade, the active participation of the United Nations development agencies and organizations and their field staff has been indispensable for achieving the goals and objectives of the Decade. United Nations Resident Coordinators continue to make a key contribution by providing impetus for the development of national efforts in disaster reduction.

38. As the principal organization within the United Nations system responsible for development cooperation, UNDP plays a major role in this regard. In several countries, notably in Asia and the Pacific, disaster reduction has been emphasized in the current UNDP programming cycle, largely in response to requests from national authorities. Representatives of UNICEF have been encouraged to incorporate disaster-reduction elements in their programmes in disaster-prone areas.

39. The Disaster Management Training Programme, implemented jointly by UNDP and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs with broad inter-agency participation, has spurred local initiatives in this respect. Recently, it successfully completed the first phase of a strategic process for disaster management, coordination and reduction, at various levels, in 55 countries. The Programme has involved development and disaster-prevention professionals within the United Nations system, and from among national officers of government agencies, in a common quest for appropriate measures for preparedness and to raise disaster awareness. Participants have both drawn upon, and further extended, their respective professional abilities through collaboration in programmes that have been implemented in their various countries.

40. Both the World Conference and the mid-term review of the Decade have strongly confirmed the importance of integrating disaster reduction into the national development planning process if sustainable development is to be achieved. Development agencies and financial institutions have assisted in conceptualizing the interrelationships between sustainable development, environmental protection and disaster reduction. At the same time, it is widely felt that there is a need for a better balance between immediate disaster requirements and longer-term developmental interests. As expressed in the report of the Secretary-General on an agenda for development (A/49/665), preventive and curative forms of development are complementary dimensions, applicable to both man-made and natural disasters.

C. Scientific and technical organizations

41. As the initial conceptualizers of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, the scientific, technical and professional organizations remain a major resource for the Decade, especially as their ranks are expanded to include additional professional disciplines. In recognition of the value of interdisciplinary action, and responding to suggestions made at the World Conference, the Decade secretariat has initiated a project that addresses the difficult challenges connected with the protection of mega-cities and their infrastructure from natural hazards. At the same time, the secretariat has compiled case-studies that demonstrate the economic benefits of disaster reduction. Another activity seeks to facilitate consideration of disaster-related issues in the identification, formulation and implementation of development projects. The secretariat is also planning to review different examples of disaster legislation in an attempt to produce guidelines for wider circulation, as part of its resource material.

42. The role of the scientific and technical community has been particularly relevant to developing institutional networks, as well as addressing socio-economic and legal aspects of disaster reduction. Such networks, comprising policy makers and technical institutions alike, are being developed with the participation of leading scientific and technical organizations, and in association with UNESCO and other interested United Nations agencies and intergovernmental bodies. Interest has also been expressed by a number of universities to establish collaborative relationships in the fields of applied science and research. Similar synergy will be achieved through the establishment of networks of interdisciplinary cooperation between developing and developed countries.

43. Within the framework of the Decade, the following major scientific and technical associations continue to be engaged in important disaster-reduction endeavours: International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), Union of International Technical Associations (UITA), World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), European Earthquake Engineers (EEE) and International Institute of Communications (IIC).

44. Further information on the current activities and planned initiatives of scientific and technical organizations is included in the information report prepared by the Decade secretariat.

D. Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

45. A number of global and regional organizations, from the public and private sectors, and non-governmental organizations have reported on their disaster-reduction activities. These include the International Civil Defence Organization (ICDO), the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Further information on specific activities is included in the report prepared by the secretariat of the Decade.

E. Department of Humanitarian Affairs

46. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs has incorporated the functions of the Disaster Mitigation Branch and the Decade secretariat in its recently established Disaster Reduction Division, while retaining the identity of the secretariat within the Decade framework. The orientation of the Division's work is influenced by the Yokohama Strategy and the Plan of Action, which is reflected in the Division's own action plan for 1995. In its early stages of implementation, the merger has demonstrated the value of providing one management structure for distinctive but complementary functions essential to realizing the goals of the Decade.

47. The secretariat concentrates on coordinating the implementation of the Decade's resolutions by the international community, participating member States and partner organizations, while the technical staff of the Disaster Reduction Division continue to provide technical support to regional and national initiatives for disaster reduction. This arrangement has provided the opportunity to harness the application of specific types of technical support of the Department to further the Decade's policy objectives. In addition, there are other professional capacities in the Department, such as training and operational preparedness expertise, which can contribute to the goals of disaster reduction and, thus, of the Decade.

48. An annual action plan for the Disaster Reduction Division, prepared in January 1995, translates expressed Decade policy intentions into an operational scheme of increased capacity. It also provides a time-frame for specific annual work plans, which include designated professional responsibilities and clearly defined targets. The primary activities of the Division include the following:

(a) Information management and early-warning systems (including a network of organizational relationships);

(b) Public information and promotion of disaster reduction;

(c) Programme analysis and applications (with case-study and experience transfer, through institutional liaison);

(d) Technical support for policy commitment and disaster-mitigation practice at the regional and country levels;

(e) International policy coordination for the Decade and secretariat management;

(f) Resource mobilization for the Trust Fund for the Decade.

49. The establishment of the Division has provided the opportunity for a strengthened programme framework. It must be stressed, however, that provision of the necessary support for the full realization of the practical results anticipated by the Yokohama Strategy and the Plan of Action is dependent upon the availability of adequate professional capacity and financial resources.

III. FRAMEWORK OF ACTION FOR THE DECADE

50. The General Assembly, in resolution 44/236, by which the Decade was proclaimed, requested the Secretary-General to establish organizational arrangements to implement the resolution. They were, namely, the Special High-Level Council, the Scientific and Technical Committee and the secretariat of the Decade. The United Nations Steering Committee for the Decade was established to coordinate the many tasks given to the United Nations system under the resolution. Those bodies have since been augmented by the formation of a contact group in Geneva (see paras. 56-57) and national committees or focal points in participating countries.

A. Special High-Level Council

51. The Council has completed its work for the first half of the Decade. For the second half of the Decade, the General Assembly, in resolution 49/22 A, invited the Secretary-General to strengthen the Council by revising its objectives, functions and composition. It is anticipated that a reconstituted Council will provide guidance for motivating adequate levels of engagement and political support to ensure disaster reduction in the twenty-first century. In that role, the Council will complement the predominantly technical and programmatic emphasis of the Scientific and Technical Committee.

52. During the remaining part of the Decade, the reconstituted Council is expected to support the strategic planning towards building longer-term capacities for concerted international action. It will also play an important supportive role in preparing for the conference at the end of the Decade, which is to enhance international arrangements to sustain disaster-reduction interests into the twenty-first century. Towards these ends, the reconstituted Council should include members who are recognized internationally for their accomplishments in the fields of public policy, economics, financial affairs and managerial or commercial endeavours. The members should also have demonstrated personal dedication to disaster reduction, internationally or within their own communities.

B. Scientific and Technical Committee

53. The Committee continues to function as the professional advisory body of the Decade, and was commended by the General Assembly, in resolution 49/22 A, for its efforts. The Committee met during the World Conference, and gathered for its sixth substantive meeting, in Washington, D.C., from 27 February to 3 March 1995. The Committee was invited to Washington by the United States national committee for the Decade. The National Academy of Sciences served as host for the meeting, which was co-sponsored by several government agencies.

54. During the meeting, in response to the guidelines provided by the World Conference in the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action, the Committee concentrated on a limited number of strategic issues deemed essential to the implementation of Decade activities in the future. These included the establishment of a programme framework that would translate into action the

Decade's emphasis on implementation through national, regional and global strategies, with particular support to national committees and authorities. Early warning and information systems were also covered, as were public information and promotional activities.

55. The Committee's recommendations and conclusions on these important subjects have been made available by the Decade secretariat as an information report.

C. Contact Group of Permanent Missions

56. The Contact Group is an open-ended group of countries and United Nations agencies, established at the initiative of Member States and participating institutions. It has proved to be a useful informal arrangement for both industrialized and developing countries to maintain dialogue and plan initiatives between the Decade secretariat and primary collaborators. At its first meeting after the World Conference, the Group emphasized that its main task was to assist the secretariat in carrying out tasks derived from the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action, as well as in providing guidance for their implementation at the national and local levels. The Contact Group was convened three times in the autumn of 1994 and twice in the first half of 1995.

57. A smaller core group of representatives and alternates of the Permanent Missions from each of the five geographic regions has met, on a regular basis, twice a month to discuss a number of priority issues in support of Decade activities. The core group provides general advice, based on liaison and information exchange with the larger regional groupings of Permanent Missions both in Geneva and in New York.

D. National committees and country focal points

58. The national committees and country focal points play an important role in local coordination and the mobilization of activities. There is, however, considerable variation in individual committees' capacities and degree of involvement in disaster-reduction efforts. More than 90 countries succeeded in preparing national documentation for the World Conference. There is considerable potential for engaging a broader range of partners at the local level. Attention must be paid to sustain organizational interest and follow-up activities.

59. With the intensification of disaster-reduction activities at the national level, there is a corresponding need for the secretariat to increase its own efforts to liaise regularly with national committees and related authorities and to maintain a regular and informed relationship with authorities, organizations and individual professionals working in the national context. National initiatives and accomplishments should be tracked in order to exploit their cumulative effects, and enable the secretariat to be aware of prevailing technical or information requirements.

60. Where still non-existent, national committees or similar focal points of activity should continue to be developed by proactive secretariat support in

order to sustain motivation, initiative and the broadest possible cooperation at all levels within the international community.

E. Working Group of the United Nations Steering Committee for the Decade

61. The Working Group has continued to be a useful vehicle for the coordination of Decade-related activities among the concerned agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as among major international scientific institutions and organizations. The Working Group convened several times in 1994 after the World Conference to develop a concerted, action-oriented collaborative follow-up programme.

62. The Working Group has continued to meet periodically during the first half of 1995 to discuss participants' activities and reporting on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 49/22 A and 49/22 B. A meeting in March 1995 was dedicated to initiating a consolidated assessment of the system's early-warning capabilities for natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment.

63. In line with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 49/22 A, the Secretary-General has undertaken an initial review of the United Nations Steering Committee for the Decade and has extended its mandate until the end of the Decade under the authority of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs.

F. Secretariat of the Decade

1. Management and coordination

64. The General Assembly, in resolution 49/22 A, stressed the necessity of bringing the operational and promotional efforts of disaster reduction closer together. The incorporation of the activities of the secretariat of the Decade and the Disaster Mitigation Branch in the Disaster Reduction Division of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, at Geneva (see para. 46) is in line with that objective.

65. The outcome of the Yokohama Conference emphasized the need for strong political commitment if practical and technical measures of disaster reduction were to be integrated effectively in a larger community of interests. The Director of the Decade secretariat has recently been designated Task Manager, representing the Department of Humanitarian Affairs for natural disasters, within the framework of the Commission for Sustainable Development. The duties include reporting to the Commission on follow-up activities of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. This function is an example of the growing relevance of disaster reduction within broader development frameworks.

66. The temporary nature of the Decade and its secretariat notwithstanding, a unified management structure in the Department of Humanitarian Affairs for

disaster reduction remains an important, pressing requirement. The goals of the Decade and related resolutions of the General Assembly call for sustained motivational and coordinating capacities for disaster reduction within the United Nations system by the year 2000. Within the United Nations itself, efforts need to go beyond the technical abilities available in the Department and an exclusive reliance on extrabudgetary support for the activities of the Decade secretariat. As disaster reduction is increasingly reflected in national development policy, the demands placed on the Department in this area are likely to grow.

67. Resource mobilization for disaster reduction needs to be actively promoted alongside emergency relief concerns. In the case of the Decade secretariat, which forms the core of the Disaster Reduction Division, the Scientific and Technical Committee, in the conclusions of its recent meeting in Washington, D.C., stressed that the Decade secretariat must be stable and strong enough to devise means to motivate various agencies and collaborating partners and called for it to be accorded demonstrable evidence of policy, resource and qualified staffing support.

2. Information management and early-warning systems

68. Recognizing the importance of information management and early warning for disaster reduction, the Decade secretariat has embarked on several related initiatives. As a follow-up to the World Conference, regional strategies for improved dissemination of disaster-reduction experience have developed with the support of regional organizations. Those initiatives are discussed in the twenty-second issue of the STOP Disasters magazine of November 1994.

69. The Decade secretariat has worked closely with several collaborating partners to explore appropriate technology and communications practices that would facilitate the flow of information at all levels. One such effort has sought to assemble a working group of information providers and users in order to design and establish an international disaster information resource network. A prototype is being developed under the name "HazardNet", with emphasis on practical utility and accessibility for potential users. This activity builds on previous efforts to provide access to a wide range of resources and programme materials for disaster managers and other concerned target groups.

70. Another related system, the Emergency Preparedness Information Exchange Project (EPIX), has become an essential part of the Decade activities. This computer-based, emergency management information system is primarily a tool for the regular exchange of information in support of integrated disaster mitigation. It has gone on-line since the World Conference, and has become the secretariat's server on the Internet for promoting Decade activities and collaboration.

71. Early-warning systems are of particular relevance for disaster-related information management and communications. The General Assembly, in resolution 49/22 B, requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fiftieth session on the early-warning capacities of the United Nations system and to make recommendations on how they might be improved and better coordinated. It also

called for concrete proposals on how the transfer of technology related to early warning could be facilitated, particularly to developing countries.

72. The Decade secretariat is currently coordinating a comprehensive identification and review of existing early-warning systems for natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse effect on the environment. The exercise presents an excellent opportunity for inter-agency collaboration and cooperation with relevant partners outside the United Nations system. The secretariat is conscious of the essential linkages between the improvement of the international warning system and its local application.

3. Promotional activities

73. Since the World Conference, promotional activities have included the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction, on 12 October 1994, which focused on vulnerable communities. Information material, including in particular material relating to the Conference, was distributed widely to national committees for the Decade, community and non-governmental organizations and other collaborating partners within and outside the United Nations system.

74. Preparations are under way for the 1995 International Day, with the chosen theme "Women and children - key to prevention". Advance promotional activities and documentation have been made possible by a contribution from the city of Yokohama, which it extended for that purpose during the World Conference.

75. The magazine STOP Disasters continues to be a popular medium for the international circulation of disaster-reduction information. The format has recently been revised in order to provide more space for local, national and regional reporting. By mid-1995, a total of 24 issues had been circulated in 17,000 copies for issue in four languages. There are some 14,000 subscribers in 192 countries. The Russian Federation national committee for the Decade circulates an abridged Russian version throughout the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Chinese national committee produces a Chinese version. Another Decade publication is the IDNDR News, published quarterly in English and Spanish for more than 10,000 people by the regional project for Latin America and the Caribbean.

76. Other promotional activities include the preparation of a standard information kit to facilitate the dissemination of substantive information about the Decade. Specific articles have been prepared and placed in topical publications and circulated at selected international conferences such as the recent World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen.

77. The Yokohama Message, Strategy and Plan of Action were widely circulated in a special issue of STOP Disasters in July-August 1994. Since then, a special publication of the World Conference conclusions has been produced with a preface and a design intended to make the contents more accessible. Fifteen thousand copies in three languages are being circulated to national focal points and disaster-reduction professionals, including selected media outlets. Professional contacts and public information officers of United Nations agencies and all UNDP field offices have received the document.

4. Demonstration projects

78. Demonstration projects represent a long-standing form of Decade activity, designed to promote disaster reduction with professional and official audiences as well as scientific and technical communities and key United Nations agencies. Forty demonstration projects and international Decade projects were selected to provide examples of practical measures for disaster reduction being applied in various fields and different countries. The projects' aim is to promote the application of available technologies and to exchange know-how, particularly among developing countries.

79. The secretariat and a subcommittee of the Scientific and Technical Committee have continued to monitor the implementation of these and other demonstration projects. Most projects have made satisfactory progress, and a number of them are now nearing completion. The mobilization of resources for implementing some projects, and the identification of means for a wider dissemination of the knowledge gained to local practitioners, however, remain problematic in some cases.

80. An illustrative project, implemented by the World Federation of Engineering Organizations promotes the strengthening of structures to withstand wind and seismic hazards. Its research programme has been completed and material for a technical manual is now being compiled. Another project has promoted techniques to reinforce existing structures by simple, practical means, and manuals have been published to guide local contractors working in the developing world. Annotated bibliographies have also been compiled and circulated for use by local experts. Materials from both projects will receive wide distribution and have been used in a workshop coordinated by the Decade secretariat on earthquake disaster reduction in urban areas of developing countries, which took place in Jakarta in June 1995.

81. As the range of professional expertise committed to disaster reduction increases, future demonstration activities will, equally, provide a wider perspective of professional experience. They will integrate various fields of activities that have thus far remained outside the primary focus of the project orientation of the Decade, such as social sciences, economics, urban and regional planning, and public administration. As current projects approach completion, the Decade secretariat and the Scientific and Technical Committee will encourage implementing organizations to report on experiences and disseminate knowledge as widely as possible. The same approach will be applied to new demonstration activities brought to the attention of the Decade secretariat. A status report on the progress of all current demonstration projects since the World Conference is included in the information report prepared by the secretariat.

5. Trust Fund for the Decade

82. The Trust Fund was established to receive voluntary contributions from Governments, international organizations and other sources for the implementation of the Decade's goals. It has, however, remained an under-funded

facility, barely able to support essential functions of the Decade Framework of Action and the secretariat. Its capacity to provide substantial support for disaster-reduction projects continues to be extremely limited.

83. In 1994, voluntary contributions were made by Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Asian Development Bank and the European Union (European Community Humanitarian Office), either directly or through the Trust Fund, to prepare for, and bring participants to, the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction. A major objective was to ensure broad cross-sectoral participation from developing countries in Yokohama. The Government of Japan, having covered the additional costs of convening the World Conference at Yokohama, agreed that savings made, could be retained in the Trust Fund to, inter-alia, finance a project on earthquake reduction in mega-cities.

84. More recently, the United States National Academy of Sciences and several federal agencies, as well as the Organization of American States, PAHO/WHO and the Government of Switzerland, provided support for convening the sixth session of the Scientific and Technical Committee in Washington, D.C. in February 1995.

85. Since the World Conference, contributions have been received from Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the European Union (ECHO) and the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency for the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action. A project proposal is currently being considered by Italy. In addition, contributions in kind continue to be provided by Japan in the form of an expert and a junior professional officer. Sweden covers the costs of an associate expert in the Latin American and Caribbean region, while PAHO/WHO provides facilities and secretarial support. France has also provided contributions in kind through a seminar on risk prevention conducted in Guadeloupe for States, organizations and specialized institutions, in the Central American and Caribbean region.

86. The level of contributions to the Trust Fund is not sufficient, however, to support the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action to the extent necessary. Also, the flow of contributions continues to be irregular, prohibiting serious planning and hampering Decade activities.

87. The Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action recommended that the General Assembly include the costs of a core Decade secretariat in the United Nations regular budget. To lift the continuing constraints resulting from limited resources at least partially, several other steps may also be considered:

(a) A percentage of extrabudgetary contributions to disaster relief funds to be earmarked systematically for disaster-prevention programmes;

(b) Unspent balances of voluntary contributions for specific relief programmes to be made available, after completion of the relief activities, for disaster-reduction projects in the affected country as part of rehabilitation and reconstruction;

(c) Voluntary contributions from development funds to be made available for specific disaster-reduction projects;

(d) Technical support and resources and project personnel to be provided as in-kind contributions for collaborative disaster-reduction activities at the country level;

(e) Secondment of expert staff to the Decade secretariat to be enhanced in line with the recommendations for the establishment of the Decade Framework of Action.

IV. PROGRAMME FOR THE PERIOD 1995-2000

88. The World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction confirmed the validity of the concept and the continuing potential of the Decade to reach its objectives. At the same time, not all opportunities could be used to their full potential during the first half of the Decade. Consequently, a number of Decade objectives will now have to be fulfilled during the remaining four years, if success is to be ensured. The following sections attempt, therefore, to define the principal components of a coherently structured, yet flexible outline of activities and organizational arrangements.

A. Policy orientation

89. The policy orientation of the Decade is changing with a widespread acknowledgement of the significance of the impact of disasters on development and of the necessity to act in advance of disasters. Chapters 17 and 18 of Agenda 21, 4/ chapter II of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 5/ and paragraph 81 of the report of the Secretary-General on an agenda for development (A/49/665) link the implementation of disaster-reduction activities with progress in development.

90. The Decade is at a crossroads and has to focus attention on what can and must be accomplished in concrete terms. This requires a shift of emphasis from predominantly promotional aspects of disaster reduction, which was the main focus of activities before the World Conference, to a much greater commitment to the practical implementation of disaster-reduction measures.

91. The initial achievements of the Decade have encouraged interest, and have highlighted the needs of disaster-prone countries. The Decade's mechanisms should be enabled to respond with practical initiatives to these needs. Failure to do so can jeopardize both momentum and credibility. Neglecting opportunities in disaster reduction may compromise, in the long run, the survival of communities at risk.

92. The guarantee of safety in the future, the "global culture of prevention", now depends on what the international community can accomplish in the next four years.

B. Objective

93. The objective of the Decade remains, as originally stated, "to reduce through concerted international action, especially in developing countries, the loss of life, property damage and social and economic disruption caused by natural disasters". A programme for implementation has been prepared based on a focused management approach that should ensure tangible results in disaster reduction between 1995 and 2000.

C. Targets

94. The targets of the programme remain as set for the Decade by the Scientific and Technical Committee and as confirmed by the General Assembly. By the year 2000, countries should have the following as part of their plans to achieve sustainable development:

(a) Comprehensive national assessments of risks from natural hazards, integrated into development plans;

(b) Mitigation plans at the national and/or local levels that address long-term prevention, preparedness, and community awareness;

(c) Ready access to global, regional, national and local warning systems.

A related essential target calls for effective coordination mechanisms to be in place at the conclusion of the Decade for sustained implementation of disaster reduction at all levels.

D. Strategy

95. The strategy to achieve the objective and targets of the Decade stems from the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action. It addresses the following issues with priority:

(a) Gaining widespread recognition for disaster reduction as a part of the development process;

(b) Mobilizing political commitment and the allocation of resources as prerequisites for the implementation of disaster reduction programmes and activities;

(c) Engaging in integrated implementation processes that comprise hazard and vulnerability assessment, as well as technical and structural measures, with due consideration for disaster reduction in public policy;

(d) Coordinating effective information exchange between Decade partners, for the widest possible audience;

(e) Establishing a stable management capacity for the purpose of mobilizing, coordinating, monitoring and evaluating disaster reduction activities during the second half of the Decade.

E. Action plan

96. Four areas are identified for core activities to further disaster reduction. They will sustain the momentum generated by the World Conference towards the end of the Decade and beyond. The activities will have to draw on a variety of professional abilities in diverse fields. The principal areas for action, and the activities included therein, relate to the major components of chapter III. They have been conceived in a way that reflects the shift of emphasis to practical application of disaster reduction at the national level.

1. Development of national capacities

97. Tasks to be accomplished range from the generation of political commitment at national or local levels to the practical assessment of hazards or vulnerabilities that can be addressed. There is a need to develop locally appropriate disaster-reduction strategies which determine priorities and assign functional responsibilities. Managerial and technical abilities, or other forms of specialized knowledge, are needed for implementation. The process depends on the effective coordination of interdisciplinary abilities identifying and using existing institutional relationships. Access to country-specific and technical types of information is necessary at all levels of implementation. A significant measure of success is the incorporation, and funding, of national disaster-reduction strategies in national development plans or budgetary cycles.

2. Application of knowledge and technology

98. Activities will concentrate on identifying key technical experience or specialist knowledge and the appropriate means for them to be applied in actual human experience and social systems that provide effective disaster reduction. For example, the effectiveness of early-warning systems is enhanced through improved access to available technology and data in a manner that contributes to the implementation of timely preparedness actions. Disaster resistant construction technologies and engineering concepts need to become standard practice among contractors working within economic constraints in local communities. Due consideration will be given to indigenous, traditional expertise.

99. The secretariat of the Decade will continue to foster the dissemination of knowledge about existing technical and specialist resources, and facilitate access for their potential users. Networking between institutions and programme activities will be developed and supported for that purpose. Training will continue to be an important tool for motivating people to adopt new methods or to share existing expertise in the field of prevention, preparedness and mitigation. The expansion of interdisciplinary relationships and the

promotion of cross-sectoral coalitions of related interests will increase the opportunities for transferring knowledge and technology for the mutual benefit of all Decade participants.

3. Information management, public information and promotion

100. Ability to obtain, circulate and use information at all operational levels of Decade activities is critical to its success. Attention needs to be focused on identifying the important actors and then determining their specific information requirements. Equally important is a sound assessment of sources of information. New and productive organizational and operational relationships can be developed through exchange of information. Mechanisms that increase access to information and facilitate their use expand the scope of applied disaster reduction and increase the range of participants. Tasks will include the further development of global, regional, comprehensive and sectoral network systems.

101. A promotional dimension will be maintained in the activities of the Decade. It is essential, however, to shift from a general marketing of the philosophy of the Decade to providing widespread understanding of the feasibility of disaster reduction on the basis of concrete experiences. The effectiveness of public information and promotion depends on identifying key recipients and targeting them with appropriate information, in order to motivate their interest and mobilize active participation. The successful achievement of the Decade's objectives depends on the extent to which the right information is put in the hands of the right people - to understand, to decide, to motivate, to implement and to share knowledge.

4. International collaboration

102. The established International Framework of Action for the Decade will continue to be the prime catalytic mechanism for promotion and implementation. The Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action provides additional emphasis on concrete disaster reduction activities, conducted in a concerted, cross-sectoral manner, at all levels. As outlined earlier, wider participatory access to the Framework of Action will be solicited and the effectiveness of its individual components will be raised.

103. An additional dimension of international cooperation is being introduced in response to the request of the General Assembly, in its resolution 49/22 A, for initial recommendations for a second world conference not later than the year 2000. This conference should take stock of the achievements of the Decade, and provide a basis for structured and sustained disaster reduction into the twenty-first century.

104. If that ambitious goal is to be achieved, the preparations for the event at the end of the Decade cannot be limited to an administrative and organizational approach. The conference should be the final event of a process, over the next four years, which arranges for continuous interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral interaction of all partners in the Decade. The conference should not be an end

in itself, but a landmark that will focus international cooperation on ensuring a safer world in the year 2000 and beyond.

105. Based on the endorsement of the proposals outlined in the present report, the organization of the conference should start without delay. A preparatory committee should be established and its composition and terms of reference determined. The success of the World Conference in Yokohama confirms the value of the multidisciplinary approach employed there.

106. In order to provide adequate substantive and secretarial support for the process, for the work of the preparatory committee and for the conference itself, the Decade secretariat will serve as the conference secretariat as was the case for the Yokohama Conference.

F. Time-frame

107. The programme's funding and commitments need to be agreed. Annual plans can set forth in detail a work programme, including target achievements such as the following:

(a) 1995 - Year of conceptualization and confirmation

(i) Finalize plan process and planning responsibilities;

(ii) Confirm policy and financial commitment of member States;

(iii) Engage primary collaborators and supporters;

(iv) Arrive at agreement of interests and implementation roles within the United Nations;

(v) Initiate regional plan development, emphasis and institutions;

(b) 1996 - Year of engagement

(i) Organize programme-management responsibilities;

(ii) Identify and engage regional implementation institutions;

(iii) Reconstitute Special High-Level Council;

(iv) Implement specific work programmes in regions and countries;

(v) Identify and develop supporting institutional relationships;

(vi) Prepare agenda and preparatory process of conference event;

(c) 1997 - Year of concentration

(i) Concentrate on implementation of activities in countries;

(ii) Consolidate sectoral, geographical implementation networks;

(iii) Initiate development funding process for future sustainability;

(iv) Concentrate on conference operational responsibilities and resources;

(d) 1998 - Year of assessment and refinement

(i) Assess country and regional developments;

(ii) Assess institutional and collaborator involvement;

(iii) Synthesize disaster-reduction achievements and plan presentations;

(iv) Refine areas of emphasis and redirect attention, as necessary;

(v) Formulate future feasibility of coordination mechanisms;

(vi) Review specific regional, sectoral and special-interest achievements and translate into contributions for forum;

(e) 1999 - Year of consolidation

(i) Report progress, achievements and future commitments;

(ii) Conduct forum to compile results, give wider circulation to existing resources and organizational capabilities and recognize permanent capacities for coordination of disaster reduction;

(iii) Confirm and install funding modalities for sustained attention;

(f) 2000 - Year of accomplishment

(i) Evidence of risk reduction in national planning;

(ii) Established regional, technical, sectoral coordination;

(iii) Engagement of international capacities, mechanisms for sustained disaster reduction;

(iv) Critical assessment of results of the Decade;

(v) International sustained financial commitments;

(vi) International mechanisms for coordination.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

108. The following conclusions and recommendations are submitted for consideration:

(a) It is recommended that the strategic approach and the related action plan for the second half of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction outlined in the present report be endorsed as a means to achieve the required shift from promotion to practical application. This approach and the plan of action are to ensure the achievement by the year 2000 of sustained disaster reduction, firmly integrated in national planning;

(b) The appeal for an adequate provision of resources within the Decade's framework of activities should be reiterated. Resources should be deployed for bilateral and multilateral technical cooperation, as well as for the exchange of technology and the facilitation of access to existing knowledge and expertise. The Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, in particular the Decade secretariat, must be enabled to execute the challenging tasks successfully through adequate financial support;

(c) It is recommended that all partners in the Decade support and participate actively in efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the Framework of Action for the Decade on the basis of the proposals advocated in the present report;

(d) The above proposals for the preparatory process for the second world conference on natural disaster reduction are recommended for endorsement by the Economic and Social Council.

Notes

1/ Report of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, Yokohama, 23-27 May 1994 (A/CONF.172/9 and Add.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

2/ Ibid., annex II.

3/ Ibid., chaps. IV and V.

4/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

5/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.